

## Vegetables, Melons, and Potatoes

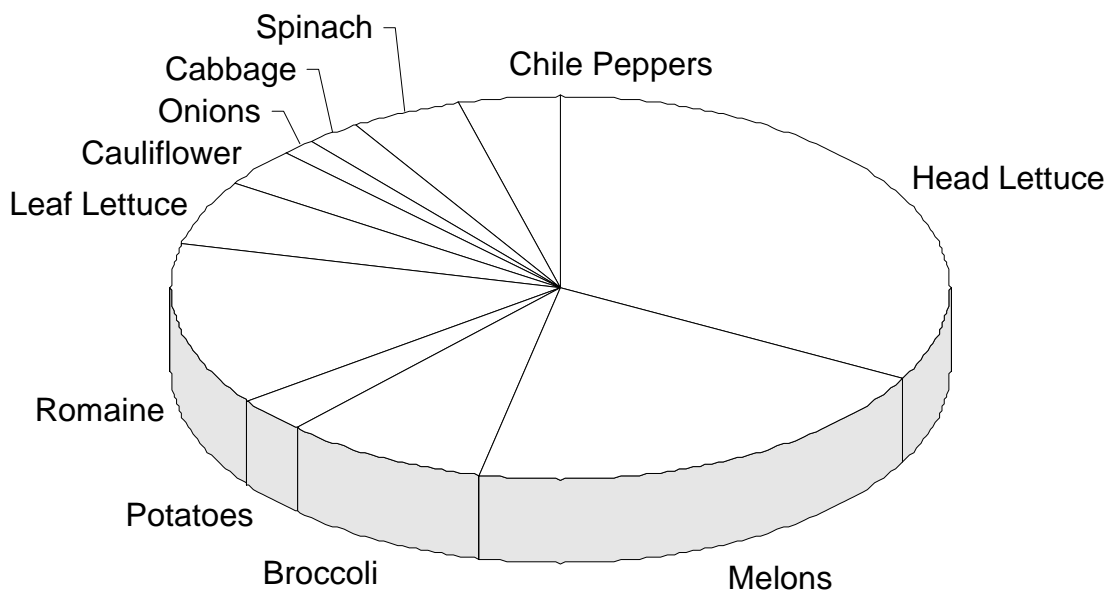
Arizona has a unique place in the agricultural industry in that it is capable of producing an ever increasing variety of vegetables nearly year round. With mild winters in the lower elevations and the cooler summer temperatures in the higher elevations, the State produces an impressive variety of vegetables and melons throughout the year. Nationally, Arizona ranked third in the production of fresh market vegetables and second to only California in the production of head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, cantaloupes, and honeydews.

During 2005, over 140,000 harvested acres were devoted to the principal vegetables (including potatoes) and melon crops in Arizona, an increase of 3 percent from a year earlier. Western head lettuce was the leader in acreage with

45,600 acres harvested, a decrease of 900 acres from 2004. Romaine lettuce acreage totaled 19,400, up 13 percent from the previous year and the second ranking crop in terms of acreage harvested. Other crops showing increases in acreage from a year earlier include chile peppers, dry onions, cantaloupe, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, and leaf lettuce. Major vegetable crops with acreage below the previous year include watermelon, potatoes, Western head lettuce, cabbage and honeydew.

The value of all principal vegetables, potatoes, and melons produced in Arizona during 2005 totaled \$861 million, a decrease of 1 percent from the previous year.

### Vegetable & Melon Harvested Acres 2004-05



140,100 Total Acres